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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : George C. ALLEN Jr. et al.

Group Art Unit: 2661

Appln. No. : 10/024,182

Examiner:

Filed : December 21, 2001

For : ATM-BASED DISTRIBUTED VIRTUAL TANDEM SWITCHING SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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Technology Center 2600

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97-1.98, Applicants call the following documents, which were cited in either parent application no. 09/666,839 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,345,048), or grandparent application no. 09/287,092 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,169,735) to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 5,260,978, to FLEISCHER et al., issued on November 9, 1993;

U.S. Patent No. 5,363,369, to HEMMADY et al., issued on November 8, 1994;

U.S. Patent No. 5,392,402, to ROBROCK, II, issued on February 21, 1995;

U.S. Patent No. 5,434,854, to FOCARILE et al., issued on July 18, 1995;

U.S. Patent No. 5,434,853, to HEMMADY et al., issued on July 18, 1995;

U.S. Patent No. 5,438,565, to HEMMADY et al., issued on August 1, 1995;

U.S. Patent No. 5,459,722, to SHERIF, issued on October 17, 1995;

U.S. Patent No. 5,483,527, to DOSHI et al., issued on January 9, 1996;

U.S. Patent No. 5,513,174, to PUNJ, issued on April 30, 1996;

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U.S. Patent No. 5,581,551, to FUNDNEIDER et al., issued on December 3, 1996;

U.S. Patent No. 5,619,500, to HIEKALI, issued on April 8, 1997;

U.S. Patent No. 5,638,365, to DUAULT et al., issued on June 10, 1997;

U.S. Patent No. 5,710,769, to ANDERSON et al., issued on January 20, 1998; and

U.S. Patent No. 5,757,783, to ENG et al., issued on May 26, 1998.

U.S. Patent No. 5,991,301 to CHRISTIE, issued November 23, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,956,334 to CHU et al., issued September 21, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,953,316 to LAZAR et al., issued September 14, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,943,321 to ST-HILAIRE et al., issued August 24, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,914,956 to WILLIAMS, issued June 22, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,719,863 to HUMMEL, issued February 17, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 5,703,876 to CHRISTIE, issued December 30, 1997;

U.S. Patent No. 5,568,475 to DOSHI et al., issued October 22, 1996;

Malik, O., "It's the Voice, Stupid", Forbes, Digital Tool, September 8, 1999;

ATM Forum Technical Committee, "Circuit Emulation Service Interoperability Specification", Version 2.0, published January, 1997. Applicants note that this document is discussed on pages 9 and 20 of the specification of the instant application; and

ATM Forum Technical Committee, "Voice and Telephony Over ATM-ATM Trunking Using AAL1 for Narrowband Services", Version 1.0, published July, 1997.

The Examiner in grandparent application no. 09/287,092 cited U.S. Patent No. 6,009,100 to GAUSMANN et al., which issued on December 28, 1999.

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The Examiner in parent application no. 09/666,839 cited:

U.S. Patent No. 6,169,735, to ALLEN, JR. et al., which is the grandparent to the present application (i.e., application no. 09/287,092); and

U.S. Patent No. 5,428,607 to HILLER et al., issued on June 27, 1995.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report, issued on August 16, 1999:

U.S. Patent No. 5,867,571, to BORCHERING, issued on February 2, 1999, is cited as an X-Category document (i.e., document with particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone) and as a P-Category document (i.e., document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed), with respect to claims 1-25. Figures 1, 2A, 2B; col. 1, lines 45-59; col. 4, line 30 through col.5, line 30, were considered relevant passages;

U.S. Patent No. 5,883,893, to RUMER et al., issued on March 16, 1999, is cited as a Y-Category document (i.e., document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art) and as a P-Category document, with respect to claims 3-6 and 15-18. Figure 2; col. 2, line 63 through col. 3, line 7, were considered relevant passages;

U.S. Patent No. 5,483,527, to DOSHI et al., issued on January 9, 1996, is cited as an X-Category document with respect to claims 1-25. Figure 1, col. 2, lines 23-54 were considered relevant passages; and

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U.S. Patent No. 5,623,491, to SKOOG, issued on April 22, 1997, is cited as a Y-Category document with respect to claims 1-25. Figures 1-3 were considered relevant passages.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite these documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are in application nos. 09/287,092 or 09/666,839, which complies with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d) regarding the copies. Applicants will, however, supply copies to the Examiner if deemed necessary. The documents have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is attached. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the form to the applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent applications, copies of which are attached:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/576,036, filed May 23, 2000, entitled "ATM-Based Distributed Network Switching System";

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/534,308, filed March 23, 2000, entitled "Fault Tolerant ATM-Based Distributed Virtual Tandem Switching System and Method";

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/562,725, filed May 1, 2000 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,219,348 to ALLEN, Jr. et al., issued April 17, 2001);

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/487,869, filed January 20, 2000 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,343,065 to ALLEN, Jr. et al., issued January 29, 2002);

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/794,914, entitled "ATM-Based Distributed Virtual

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Tandem Switched System”, filed February 28, 2001; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/015,809, entitled “System and Method for Measurement-Based Adaptive Caching of Virtual Connections”, filed December 17, 2001.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned applications or patents are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
George C. ALLEN Jr. et al.

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April 3, 2002
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